

1. (Amended) A video classification system comprising:

a story segment identifier for processing a video stream and partitioning the video stream into a plurality of story segments, said story segment identifier producing one or more key

5 frames associated with each story segment of the plurality of story segments; and

a classifier, operably coupled to the story segment identifier, for associating one or more classifications to each story segment of the plurality of story segments, to facilitate a
10 selection among the plurality of story segments based on the one or more classifications.

2. (Amended) The video classification system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

a3 the video stream includes an associated text stream;

the story segment identifier partitions the text stream
5 into an at least one text segment corresponding to at least one story segment of the plurality of story segments; and

the classifier associates the one or more classifications to the at least one story segment based on the at least one text segment.

3. (Amended) The video classification system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the video stream includes an associated audio stream;
the story segment identifier partitions the audio stream
5 into at least one audio segment corresponding to at least one story
segment of the plurality of story segments; and
the classifier associates the one or more classifications
to the at least one story segment based on the at least one audio
segment.

4. (Amended) The video classification system as claimed in
claim 3, wherein:

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the classifier includes a converter for converting the at
least one audio segment into at least one text segment, the
classifier associating the one or more classifications to the at
least one story segment based on the at least one text segment.

5. (Amended) The video classification system as claimed in
claim 1, wherein the video classification system further includes:

a visual characterizer, operably coupled to the story
segment identifier and the classifier, for providing a visual
5 characterization of at least one story segment of the plurality of
story segments based on an image content of the at least one each
story segment; and wherein

the classifier associates the one or more classifications to the at least one story segment based on the visual
10 characterization.

6. (Amended) The video classification system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the visual characterizer includes:

a figure recognizer for recognizing a recognized figure from a plurality of recognizable figures based on the image
5 content; and wherein

the visual characterizer characterizes the at least one story segment based on the recognized figure.

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7. (Amended) The video classification system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the visual characterizer includes at least one of: a text recognizer, a figure recognizer, and a flesh tone recognizer.

8. (Amended) The video classification system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the story segment identifier partitions the video stream based on at least one of a recognized figure, a recognized scene, a video cut, and a detected commercial.

9. (Amended) The video classification system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the one or more classifications include at least

one of: program type, news type, media, person, locale, popularity, and keyword.

10. (Amended) The video classification system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each story segment of the plurality of story segments include one or more scenes, and the one or more key frames correspond to a frame within each of the one or more scenes.

11. (Amended) The video classification system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the one or more key frames are determined based upon a transform of an encoding of the story segment of the plurality of story segments.

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* 12. (Amended) The video classification system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the transform includes a discrete cosine transform, and the encoding is an MPEG encoding.

13. (Amended) The video classification system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the video stream is communicated from at least one of: an analog signal broadcast, a digital signal broadcast, a satellite broadcast, a cable broadcast, an Internet connection, a
5 recorder device, and a playback device.

14. (Amended) The video classification system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said video classification system further includes:
a storage device for storing the plurality of story segments.

15. (Amended) The video classification system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the storage device is at least one of: a VCR, a DVD, a DVR, a CD-R/W, and a computer memory.

16. (Amended) The video classification system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the one or more key frames is a video clip.

17. (Amended) A retrieval system for retrieving story segments of a plurality of story segments based on one or more classifications associated with each story segment of the plurality of story segments, the retrieval system comprising:

5 a filter for identifying one or more filtered story segments of the plurality of story segments based on the one or more classifications that are associated with each story segment; and

10 a presenter, operably coupled to the filter, for sequentially presenting one or more key frames associated with the one or more filtered story segments on a display.

18. (Amended) The retrieval system as claimed in claim 17,
wherein:

the filter includes a sorter for associating a ranking to
each story segment based on a correlation of the one or more
5 classifications to one or more preferences; and

the one or more filtered story segments are identified
based on the ranking associated with each story segment.

19. (Amended) The retrieval system as claimed in claim 18,
wherein:

the presenter presents the one or more key frames in
dependence upon the ranking associated with each story segment.

20. (Amended) The retrieval system as claimed in claim 18,
wherein said retrieval system further includes:

a profiler for producing the one or more preferences.

21. (Amended) The retrieval system as claimed in claim 17,
wherein the one or more classifications include at least one of:
program type, news type, media, person, locale, popularity, and
keyword.

22. (Amended) The retrieval system as claimed in claim 17,
wherein said retrieval system further includes:

a player, operably coupled to the presenter, for
presenting a selected story segment of the one or more filtered
5 story segments based upon the one or more key frames that are
presented on the display at a time when a user effects a selection.

23. (Amended) The retrieval system as claimed in claim 22,
wherein the player also presents a portion of each of the one or
more filtered story segments sequentially.

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24. (Amended) The retrieval system as claimed in claim 17,
wherein said retrieval system further includes:

a storage device for storing the plurality of story
segments.

25. (Amended) The retrieval system as claimed in claim 24,
wherein the storage device is at least one of: a VCR, a DVR, a CD-
R/W, and a computer memory.

26. (Amended) The retrieval system as claimed in claim 17,
wherein:

the presenter also presents at least one of: one or more
portions of an audio segment and one or more portions of a text

5 segment that are associated with the one or more filtered story segments.

27. (Amended) A video device comprising:

a classification device for classifying a plurality of segments of a video stream by producing a classification based on at least one of text, audio, or visual information associated with
5 each segment of the plurality of segments; and

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a retrieval device for facilitating a selection of at least one segment of the plurality of segments by matching the classification of the at least one segment of the plurality of segments to at least one user preference, and by presenting at
10 least one key frame of the at least one segment of the plurality of segments on a display.

28. (Amended) The video device as claimed in claim 27, wherein said video device further includes:

a player for communicating the at least one segment of the video stream to the display based on the selection of the at least
5 one segment.

29. (Amended) The video device as claimed in claim 27, wherein said video device further includes:

a storage device for storing the plurality of segments.

30. (Amended) The video device as claimed in claim 27, wherein the video device is at least one of: a television, a set-top box, a video recorder, a computer, and a palm-top device.

31. (Amended) The video device as claimed in claim 27, wherein the video device further includes:

a pre-filter for filtering a multi-channel input to provide the video stream based on the at least one user preference.

32. (Amended) The video device as claimed in claim 31, wherein the pre-filter filters the multi-channel input based on a program guide.

33. (Amended) A user interface for retrieving a selected segment of a plurality of segments of a video stream, said user interface comprising:

means for rendering one or more key frames associated with one or more segments of the plurality of segments; and

means for selecting the selected segment based on the rendering of the one or more key frames.

34. (Amended) The user interface as claimed in claim 33, wherein said user interface further comprises:

means for identifying one or more user preferences; and
wherein:

5 the means for rendering the one or more key frames
includes:

means for determining a comparison between a
classification of each segment of the plurality of segments and the
one or more user preferences; and wherein

10 the rendering of the one or more key frames is dependent
upon the comparison.

35. (Amended) The user interface as claimed in claim 34,
wherein:

the means for rendering the one or more key frames
includes one or more panes on the display; and

5 the one or more key frames associated with each of the one
or more segments are displayed sequentially in the one or more
panes.

36. (Amended) The user interface as claimed in claim 35,
wherein:

the means for selecting the selected segment includes
means for indicating a selection of a selected pane of the one or
5 more panes, whereby the selected segment corresponds to one of the

one or more segments that is associated with the one or more key frames being displayed in the selected pane.

37. (Amended) The user interface as claimed in claim 33, wherein said user interface further comprises:

a means for rendering the selected segment on the display.

38. (Amended) The user interface as claimed in claim 37, wherein said user interface further comprises:

a rendering control for receiving render mode options; and

means for rendering portions of each segment of the plurality of segments in dependence upon the render mode options.

39. (Amended) The user interface as claimed in claim 33, wherein the means for selecting the selected segment includes at least one of: a pointing device, a voice recognition system, a gesture recognition system, and a keyboard.

40. (Amended) The user interface as claimed in claim 33, wherein the means for rendering the one or more key frames of the plurality of segments includes a multi-dimensional presentation of at least one of: the one or more key frames, one or more user preferences, and one or more user options.